

## Sample Slab Update #21 – August 2017

The newsletter for sample slab collectors  
Special World's Fair of Money All-PCGS issue

### Market Notes from the World's Fair of Money

After the US Mint's Enhanced Uncirculated set, the item creating the most buzz at the Denver ANA was PCGS' Rare Coin Market Report five-coin set of promotional holders. These publicize the new Rare Coin Market Report magazine, which is a print version of the PCGS price guide supplemented with additional articles and photos. PCGS made one variety of holder available on each day of the show and only a persistent or lucky collector could obtain all five. Containing 2017-P cents, they are:

2017 Denver ANA / RCMR Collector Set. Coin # 629578. 1000 made.

David Hall signature. Coin # 629579. 250 made.

Ron Guth signature. Coin # 629580. 250 made.

Michael Sherman signature. Coin # 629581. 250 made.

Phil Arnold signature. Coin # 629582. 250 made.



Although I received the best samples of the show for free, searching every dealer case in the room at the world's largest coin show yielded not even one sample slab for sale. (I did buy two PCGS type 2.1 production holders – see the article below.) The scarcity could be because the cost of a table at a premier show makes displaying less valuable items impractical, or because the more sophisticated dealers who attend the ANA know to put sample slabs on eBay to earn the highest prices. Sample



The August 2017 installment in this avidly collected series holds a 2014-D Great Sand Dunes, Colorado quarter, chosen because the show was in Colorado this year.

and related slabs more often turn up at local shows or at coin shops. These dealers can afford to display \$10 - \$50 samples, or may have unattributed pieces available for the cost of the enclosed coins.

PCGS Set Registry members who went to the Friday luncheon earned one of the most desirable holders when they received their fresh luncheon slabs at the event.

### **Sample Slab Collector Meeting Held at the Denver ANA**

For the second year in a row, sample slab collectors met at the ANA convention. Seven enthusiasts discussed their collections, the sample market, their recent finds, and how to update the book. Some of the top collectors and dealers attended and I was privileged to meet an advanced collector I previously knew only from email. Show and tell included several items I had never seen before.

At the 2018 ANA convention in Philadelphia, it may be worthwhile to register as an official ANA member club with a listing in the show program. The best part of numismatics is the people. Connecting with collectors who share our enthusiasm and grow our knowledge enriches the hobby.

### **Not Exactly Samples – PCGS 2.1 and 2.2**

PCGS gave a gift to its fans when it published the [Museum of Coin Holders](#) in 2016. This valuable resource tells what slabs exist, the scarcity of each, and how to identify each type. I haven't found a rare [1.0](#) or [1.1](#) on a bourse floor yet, but the scarce [2.1](#) and [2.2](#) generations occasionally appear.

Think of the 2.1 and 2.2 as doily holders with solid green labels. Like the famous doily ([type 2.0](#)), a 2.1 or 2.2 is a rattler holder surrounded by a clear plastic ring (sometimes called a collar). The 2.1 has a perforated label, while the 2.2 label does not have perforations. PCGS used these styles briefly, issuing the 2.1 October – December 1989 and the 2.2 December 1989 – January 1990. The ring tends to chip and crack if not handled carefully, and dirt can build up under the ring. These factors make intact, clean holders prized by slab collectors today.



Generation 2.1 holder

Distinguish a 2.1 / 2.2 from the more common 3.0 and 3.1 green label holder by:

- “PCGS” molded into the ring at the lower right.
- Usually no “PCGS” on the front of the label.
- Four clear plastic locator pins in a square surrounding the coin. These appear in photos as small, faint circles.

A 2.1 / 2.2 earns a premium of \$25 - \$40 over the value of the enclosed coin, so they are worth picking up, especially if they contain inexpensive coins. As an example, when Sample Slab Update Sale #4 included a MS63 1881-S Morgan in a 2.1 holder for \$69, multiple collectors offered to buy the coin. More importantly than the opportunity to earn a modest amount reselling, a PCGS collector building a type set will want to look for these scarce holders to add to their collection.



Two sample slabs use the with-perforations type 2.1 (PCGS-010-3-8 and PCGS-010-3-9), while one sample slab uses the without-perforations type 2.2 holder (PCGS-010-3-7).

### PCGS Luncheon Slab List

PCGS luncheon slabs are some of the most avidly pursued samples. At each January FUN and August ANA show, PCGS holds a lunch for set registry members with awards, a presentation, and a souvenir holder for every attendee. Collectors like completing sets, and luncheon slabs are a documented set with new pieces added predictably two per year. They also serve their intended purpose as souvenirs of major coin shows.

Sample Slabs and other resources catalog luncheon slabs, but none of these resources has a single list to guide the collector. The list on the next page should be useful to those assembling or thinking of assembling sets.

### Known PCGS Luncheon Slabs

Date	Show	Coin	Type	Date	Label	Mintage	Catalog #	Value	Notes
5/?/03	Long Beach	Quarter	New York	2001-P	CU Forum Lunch Crew / Series: 39 Coin: 168	40	PCGS-025-4-20	120	
8/?/06	ANA	1 oz	Silver Eagle	2006	PCGS / 20 YEARS OF SERVICE / Set Registry Luncheon - August 2006		Unlisted	110	
1/5/07	FUN	1 oz	Silver Eagle	2007	PCGS CoinFacts Luncheon		Unlisted	125	
8/10/07	ANA	Dollar	Washington	2007	PCGS SET REGISTRY / Awards Luncheon / August 10, 2007		Unlisted	100	Proof coin
8/10/07	ANA	Dollar	Jefferson	2007	PCGS SET REGISTRY / Awards Luncheon / AUGUST 10, 2007		PCGS-100-9-3	175	Proof coin
8/7/09	ANA	Dollar	Tyler	2009	PCGS Luncheon / August 7, 2009	220	PCGS-100-9-5	50	Proof coin
8/7/09	ANA	Dollar	Taylor	2009	PCGS Luncheon / August 7, 2009	220	PCGS-100-9-6	50	Proof coin
1/8/10	FUN	Cent	Early Childhood	2009-D	PCGS Luncheon / January 8, 2010 / Kentucky Birth / and Childhood		PCGS-001-9-8	60	
1/8/10	FUN	Cent	Formative Years	2009-D	PCGS Luncheon / January 8, 2010 / Indiana / Formative Years		PCGS-001-9-9	60	
1/8/10	FUN	Cent	Professional Life	2009-D	PCGS Luncheon / January 8, 2010 / Illinois / Professional Life		PCGS-001-9-10	60	Not confirmed
1/8/10	FUN	Cent	Presidency	2009-D	PCGS Luncheon / January 8, 2010 / Presidency in / Washington DC		PCGS-001-9-11	60	
8/13/10	ANA	Quarter	Yosemite	2010-S	PCGS Luncheon / August 13, 2010	150	PCGS-025-9-4	125	Proof coin
8/18/11	ANA	Quarter	Illinois	2003	PCGS Luncheon August 18, 2011		PCGS-025-9-3	45	
1/6/12	FUN	20 cent	France	2010	PCGS Luncheon / January 6, 2012	250	PCGS-Fc20-9-1	50	May also exist with a 10 cent coin
8/10/12	ANA	Quarter	Gettysburg	2011-P	PCGS Luncheon / August 10, 2012	160	PCGS-025-9-12	45	
1/11/13	FUN	Cent	Canada	2012	PCGS Luncheon / January 11, 2013	200	PCGS-Cc1-9-1	50	
8/16/13	ANA	Cent	Professional Life	2009-D	PCGS Luncheon / August 16, 2013	180	PCGS-001-9-6	45	
1/10/14	FUN	Cent	Wheat	1914	FUN Luncheon / Jan 10, 2014		PCGS-001-9-1	35	I am no longer certain that this variety exists
1/10/14	FUN	Cent	Wheat	1914	PCGS Luncheon / January 10, 2014		PCGS-001-9-2	35	
8/8/14	ANA	Quarter	Barber	1892	PCGS Luncheon / August 8, 2014 / "Low Ball" Set Registry Quality	160	PCGS-025-9-1	90	Also 1898, 1910, 1914, 1916 coins
1/9/15	FUN	Quarter	Everglades	2014-P	PCGS Luncheon / January 9, 2015	240	PCGS-025-9-11	65	
8/14/15	ANA	Cent	Shield	2015-S	PCGS Luncheon / August 14, 2015		Unlisted	50	Proof coin
1/8/16	FUN	Nickel	Jefferson	1986-P, 1986-D	PCGS Luncheon / Celebrating 30 Years / January 8, 2016	230	PCGS-005-9-5	50	230 of all types combined
1/8/16	FUN	Dime	Roosevelt	1986-P	PCGS Luncheon / Celebrating 30 Years / January 8, 2016	230	Unlisted	50	Book error - dime left out
1/8/16	FUN	Quarter	Washington	1986-P	PCGS Luncheon / Celebrating 30 Years / January 8, 2016	230	PCGS-025-9-11	50	Book error - two slabs numbered PCGS-025- 9-11
1/8/16	FUN	Half	Kennedy	1986-P, 1986-D	PCGS Luncheon / Celebrating 30 Years / January 8, 2016	230	PCGS-050-9-3	60	Also 1983-D coins
8/12/16	ANA	Medal	30th Anniversary	1986-2016	PCGS Luncheon / August 12, 2016	150	Unlisted	100	
1/6/17	FUN	Dollar	Eisenhower	1977-D	PCGS LUNCHEON / January 6, 2017	200	Unlisted	80	
8/4/17	ANA	Quarter	Great Sand Dunes	2014-D	PCGS / Set Registry Luncheon / August 4, 2017	160	Unlisted	60	

This table tells us that probably not all luncheon slabs are cataloged. If PCGS gave away one slab every January and one every August since 2010, the January 2011 piece is missing from this list. The situation before 2010 is even murkier, where we are unsure whether luncheons were held and whether PCGS issued slabs for the events. More will certainly come to light.

It also tells us that a full set of PCGS luncheon slabs is difficult, but possible, at least from a financial point of view. Owning one of each of the 29 items on this list could cost about \$2,000, which is an amount that many collectors are willing to spend on a coin set. Don't expect, however, to find every slab at a big show or even in a year of dedicated searching online. Some have not come up for sale for years, and a full set is a long-term project for a dedicated sample collector.

## **Book News**

The book tour continued with a July 20 appearance at the San Bernardino Coin Club, where I think the talk won over one or two slab haters. I am available to speak at Los Angeles area clubs. I brought and sold a few copies in Denver as well.

Some copies of the Sample Slabs, second edition, book remain. Buy it for \$29 with shipping (\$12 for the PDF download) at [SampleSlabBook.com](http://SampleSlabBook.com) or [eBay](http://eBay). Or find me at Southern California shows, such as the Long Beach Expo.

## **Buying and Selling**

I decided to get the newsletter out quickly instead of preparing inventory, so nothing for sale this time. Feel free, as always, to offer collections or individual pieces at [davidschwager@hotmail.com](mailto:davidschwager@hotmail.com).

If you would like to place a brief buy or sell ad in the next Sample Slab Update at no charge, please send an email.

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